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Ministry of Advanced Education

$2.3M FOR GREENER AND IMPROVED TRADES TRAINING AT CNC

PRINCE GEORGE – More than $2.3 million in building upgrades will mean greater learning opportunities in a greener trades training facility at the College of New Caledonia, Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Shirley Bond announced today.

"We need to train more students in trades in northern B.C.," said Bond. "We also need to make sure that those students have every learning advantage and access to the latest equipment in facilities that pay attention to our environmental footprint."

The $2,336,406 in funding will go toward the completion of the second phase of upgrades at the college's Mackenzie Building. Upgrades will be made to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems to improve air quality and energy efficiency. Modernization of several electrical systems in the building will allow for installation of the newest equipment to train students.

"This funding will help the College of New Caledonia provide even better training on modern equipment," said Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell. "It's essential that students have the skills they need in today's world of changing technology."

"These system upgrades will significantly reduce our electrical and natural gas consumption, and as a result, cut greenhouse gas emissions," said CNC president John Bowman. "CNC is committed to being environmentally friendly and providing leadership for sustainability."

Students in the millwright-machinist, millwright-apprenticeship, planermill and introductory welding level C and advanced welding A and B programs will primarily benefit from the upgrades.

"Two years ago, we focused on insulation, windows and the appearance of this building," Bell said. "Now we are concerning ourselves with air quality and making this a modern facility."

The nearly 500-square-metre Mackenzie Building was built in 1960. It contains classrooms and offices, a computer lab, two welding shops, a machinist shop, a millwright shop and a planermill area.

"Prince George has received millions in benefits from a strong economy, especially during the last month," Rustad said. "In order to keep B.C.'s economy strong we must continue to invest in trades training."

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